

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 cancelled.

- 1 Claim 8 (currently amended) A method for the remote
2 identification of labels (E) provided with a distinctive code
3 and situated in a field (2) of an interrogation apparatus (1),
4 by sending and receiving signals between the interrogator and
5 the labels, the labels being able to be inhibited, comprising
6 the following steps:
7 - prior identification step adapted to a context with a
8 single label, allowing the rapid identification, by reading its
9 code, of a single label on a single signal of the interrogator
10 when the said single label is alone in the field (2) of the
11 interrogation apparatus (1);
12 - label identification step of identifying the said labels
13 by successively reading the code of each of the said labels
14 whilst temporarily inhibiting the other labels which are not yet
15 identified if the interrogation apparatus (1) finds that several
16 of the labels are present at the same time in the field (2), the
17 codes being read by fragments,
18 - information passage step of passing information between
19 the interrogation apparatus and the label which has just been
20 identified; and
21 - definitive inhibition step of definitively inhibiting
22 the label which has just been identified.

1 **Claim 9 (previously presented)** A remote identification
2 method according to Claim 8, further comprising a label
3 identification confirmation step, which precedes and influences
4 the information passage step, comprising the sending of a signal
5 containing at least part of the code of the label which has just
6 been identified.

21 1 **Claim 10 (currently amended)** A remote identification
2 method according to Claim 8, wherein the labels can enter the
3 field (2) of the identification apparatus (1) and leave it in
4 a random fashion, and wherein the label identification step is
5 undertaken alternatively in ~~either~~ one code reading direction
6 from most significant data ~~or~~ and then another code reading
7 direction from least significant data for each of the labels.

1 **Claim 11 (previously presented)** A device for the remote
2 identification of labels by an interrogation apparatus, the
3 interrogation apparatus (1) and the labels (E) comprising signal
4 transceivers (5, 10), converters (6, 7, 14, 15) converting the
5 signals into logic information and vice versa, and means (8, 16)
6 for logic information processing, the labels each comprising a
7 distinctive code and a memory, and the interrogation apparatus
8 comprising a signal catalogue, wherein the signal catalogue
9 comprises a first signal for demanding the sending of the label
10 codes by fragments in a first reading direction from most
11 significant data, a prior signal for demanding the sending of
12 the entire label code by at least one of the labels, a passage

13 signal initiating a passage of information between the
14 interrogating apparatus and a label which has just been
15 identified, and a definitive signal for the definitive
16 inhibition of the label which has just been identified.

1 Claim 12 (previously presented) A remote identification
2 device according to Claim 11, wherein the signal catalogue
3 comprises a second signal for demanding the sending of the label
4 codes in fragments, in a second reading direction which is the
5 reverse of the first reading direction.

1 Claim 13 (new) A method for the remote identification of
2 labels (E) provided with a distinctive code and situated in a
3 field (2) of an interrogation apparatus (1), by sending and
4 receiving signals between the interrogator and the labels
5 comprising the following steps:

6 - first identification step comprising an interrogation
7 requiring the labels to send their complete codes and, if a
8 single label is present in the interrogation field, an
9 identification of the single label;

10 - second identification step if a plurality of said labels
11 are present in the interrogation field comprising successive
12 interrogations requiring the labels to send their codes by
13 respective fragments, wherein the interrogations involve a
14 progressive selection of the labels according to the sent
15 fragments, and labels that are not selected undergo a temporary

1 inhibition until only one of the labels remains selected and is
2 identified when all the fragments are interrogated;

3 - information passage step of passing information between
4 the interrogation apparatus and the label which has just been
5 identified; and

6 - definitive inhibition step of definitively inhibiting
7 the label which has just been identified.

1 Claim 14 (new) A method according to claim 13, wherein,
2 the temporary inhibition consists in switching off a logical
3 means present on each of the labels.

1 Claim 15 (new) A method according to claim 14, wherein the
2 temporary inhibition for each label is waived only when another
3 one of the labels has been identified.

1 Claim 16 (new) A method according to claim 13, wherein the
2 selection consists in discarding the labels having code fragment
3 values that do not match a particular value when other ones of
4 the labels, which are selected, have code fragment values that
5 match said particular value.

1 Claim 17 (new) A method according to claim 13, wherein the
2 labels can enter the field of the identification apparatus and
3 leave it in a random fashion, and wherein the label
4 identification step is undertaken alternatively in one code
5 reading direction from most significant data and then another

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- 6 code reading direction from least significant data for each of
7 the labels.
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